desh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal. The work of setting up 33/11 kV sub-stations is a continuous process and about 30 sub-stations of the new design are expected to be set up by the State Electricity Boards during the current financial year.

Gas Produced at Nariman and Kovilakpall

*7. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of natural gas being produced annually at Nariman and Kovilkapall at present;

(b) how this natural gas is being utilised;

(c) whether ONGC is aware of the fact that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is interested in setting up a small power project to generate electricity from natural gas; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The average quantity of associated natural gas being produced at Narimanam and Kovilkalpal is 4430 M^3/day and 29916 M^3/day respectively.

(b) The associated gas is presently being flared. ONGC have proposed to supply gas from Narimanam-I to M/s. Indian Steel Rolling Mills at Nagapattinam from Oct. 1987.

(c) and (d) Tamil Nadu Electricity Board have had discussions with ONGC regarding supply of gas from Kovilkalpal for power generation and a Feasibility Report is reported to be under consideration of the TNEB and the State Government.

Review of the working of Dual Pricing Policy of Cooking Gas

*8. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received about blackmarketing of cooking gas after introducing the dual pricing policy;

(b) whether Government have recently made any critical review of the working of the dual pricing policy for cooking gas, introduced in March, 1986 to mobilise additional revenue, and to check malpractices in its distribution; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The main purpose of subsidising LPG used as domestic fuel is to induce the consumers to use it in preference to Kerosene which can be released to the people in rural areas and other vulnerable sections of the society for use for domestic illumination and cooking. This in turn, will reduce the pressure on forest fuel thereby helping preservation of forest resources.

2. In the past while the price was kept at the subsidised level for Non-domestic commercial users, such consumers were to be charged a higher rate of deposit for the use of cylinders beyond a particular number. There is no justification for the subsidy available to domestic consumers being enjoyed by those who use this fuel for commercial purposes. The subsidy on LPG is no more available

to commercial users with effect from 20.3.1987. The higher rate of deposit in respect of such users has however been withdrawn.

3. Apprehensions were expressed about increased malpractices because of the change effected on 20.3.1987. While introducing the non-domestic price, the oil industry had taken care to identify the non-domestic customers, to colour-band the cylinders for such use and organise inspections of dealers and users to check malpractices, if any. Several deserving categories like hostels, canteens and hospitals have been exempted from the price increase. On a further review of the scheme, additional steps like the following have been taken to minimise the scope for malpractices:—

(i) Supply of cylinders of different size for non-domestic use wherever possible.

(ii) Maintenance of separate registers at the dealers level in respect of domestic and non-domestic consumers.

(iii) Reattachment of non-domestic customers from dealers indulging in malpractices to other dealers.

(iv) Placement of separate indents for domestic and non-domestic cylinders by the dealers.

(v) Adequate number of inspections by each Field Officer of non-domestic customers, etc.

4. The system is under constant review by the oil industry and Government and suitable remedial steps will continue to be taken to minimise malpractices.

Strike in ECL

*9. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Coalfields Limited has received a strike notice effective from 27th July, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the workers;

(c) whether any negotiations for settlement have since taken place; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir, but the Union has since agreed to defer the strike till 20-8-1987.

(b) The workers demanded settlement of all pending issues; the major issues which are being pressed for settlement relate to:

(i) Cases of employment of dependants of workers who died in service;

(ii) Cases of employment in Accident cases;

(iii) Cases of employment of land losers;

(iv) Supply of drinking water through filteration plants;

(v) Reinstatement of dismissed workers;

(vi) Welfare measures for workers.

(c) and (d) As a result of discussions held at various levels, a number of demands have been settled and further efforts are being made to settle the remaining demands by negotiations which are in progress. The conciliation machinery under the Industrial Disputes Act has also been involved.